

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



## FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

*Watch What You Say*  
James 3:1-12

**Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.**

## **Leaders' Responsibilities:**

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## **Prior to this Coming Session:**

### **Gathering Time Leader:**

### **Bible Study Leader:**

You may want to list the suggestions for home church teachers and additional comments made by the group on a white board or large piece of paper.

The youth should also have a white board or large piece of paper or smaller pieces of paper for the list they are to make.

### **Worship Time Leader:**

Ahead of time, enlist one or two children or youth to read the Scripture given at the end of the Worship Time.

### **Music Sources:**

**Seek Ye First**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 524; CCLI # 1352

**Step by Step**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 480; CCLI # 696994

**Change My Heart, O God**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 529; CCLI # 1565

**Gathering Time:** (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***Watch What You Say*****Focal Text**

James 3:1-12

**Background**

James 3

**Main Idea**

Since what we say has great power for good or for evil, we must take care to communicate in a Christ-like manner.

**Question to Explore**

What was that you just said?

**Teaching Aim**

To help the church determine ways they will communicate for good rather than for evil.

**Gathering together:**

Sing:

**Seek Ye First**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 524; CCLI # 1352

**Step by Step**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 480; CCLI # 696994

**First thoughts:**

In James 2: 14-16 James warns against separating faith and works. In no area is this more likely than in human speech. Christians may say they believe one thing and their actions indicate something very different. Our speech has always had incredible potential for blessing or harming others. That potential has been multiplied with the advent of social media. Now our speech is not only heard by those in our immediate vicinity, but what we are thinking and “saying” is transmitted on facebook, twitter and other social networking sites. The admonitions which James wrote so many years ago are as important today as they were when he first wrote them. “Taming the tongue” is a life-long task for most of us.

L.M. Montgomery, beloved Canadian author in her book **Along the Shore, Tales by the Sea**, talks about Uncle Jesse. “Every day we loved the simple-souled, true, manly old sailor more and more. He was as refreshing as a sea breeze, as interesting as some ancient chronicle. We never tired of listening to his stories, and his quaint remarks and comments were a continual delight to us. Uncle Jesse was one of those interesting and rare people who, in the picturesque phraseology of the shore folks ‘never speaks but they say something’” (Montgomery, L.M. **Along the Shore**, M&S Paperback, 1990). James would want each of us to be the kind of person who never speaks but that they say something worthwhile, uplifting, true, and honoring to God.

### **Closing the Gathering Time:**

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

## 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

### Teacher Preparation

#### *Watch What You Say* James 3:1-12

##### **Focal Text**

James 3:1-12

##### **Background**

James 3

##### **Main Idea**

Since what we say has great power for good or for evil, we must take care to communicate in a Christ-like manner.

##### **Question to Explore**

What was that you just said?

##### **Teaching Aim**

To help the church determine ways they will communicate for good rather than for evil

### **Introduction to your personal study:**

Think about these words quoted in the Gathering Time materials:

L.M. Montgomery, beloved Canadian author in her book **Along the Shore, Tales by the Sea**, talks about Uncle Jesse. “Every day we loved the simple-souled, true, manly old sailor more and more. He was as refreshing as a sea breeze, as interesting as some ancient chronicle. We never tired of listening to his stories, and his quaint remarks and comments were a continual delight to us. Uncle Jesse was one of those interesting and rare people who, in the picturesque phraseology of the shore folks ‘never speaks but they say something’” (Montgomery, L.M. **Along the Shore**, M&S Paperback, 1990). James would want each of us to be the kind of person who never speaks but that they say something worthwhile, uplifting, true, and honoring to God.

## Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

## Focusing on the Meaning:

### Taming the tongue: James 3:1-12

#### James 3:1

***Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.***

This statement might discourage us who are a part of home churches. We encourage everyone to participate. Many participants will teach the Bible study or lead the worship experience.

What is meant by this warning from James?

Jewish rabbis or teachers were very important in the Jewish community. The word rabbi meant *my great one*. To fear the rabbi was equated with fear of God. Everywhere the rabbi went he was treated with great respect. A man's duty to his rabbi exceeded his duty to his parents for his parents brought him into the world, but his rabbi prepared him for the world to come. Rabbis supported themselves by working at a trade except in those cases where a household chose to care for him. The admiration given a rabbi was so great that it was easy for the rabbi to have spiritual and intellectual pride.

The teacher in the New Testament church was important as well. “In the Church at Antioch they are ranked with the prophets who sent out Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:1). In Paul's list of those who hold great gifts within the Church the teachers come second only to the apostles and to the prophets (1 Corinthians 12:28; cp. Ephesians 4:11). The apostles and the prophets were forever on the move. Their field was the whole Church; and they did not stay long in any one congregation. But the teachers worked within a congregation, and their supreme importance was that it must have been to them that the converts to Christianity were handed over for instruction in the facts of the Christian gospel, and for edification in the Christian faith (Barclay, Wm. **The Daily Study Bible**. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960, page 93).

There are examples in the New Testament of teachers who failed in their responsibilities. 1, 2, and 3 John warn against false teachers. Acts 15:24 says ***We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed***

***you, troubling your minds by what they said.*** One of the principal false teachings had to do with the insistence that Gentile believers must be circumcised and keep the Jewish laws.

Teachers can have great influence. In a tiny country church, a faithful children's teacher instilled Bible truths and Christ's love in the life of the writer of this lesson. A first grade teacher was honored at her funeral by a man who said her love and concern was of supreme importance in instilling in him a sense of worth. Teens are often kept from making wrong life choices by having a caring and competent teacher in their lives.

It is because of this influence that James speaks so strongly about the necessity of remembering that teaching is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. Barclay says that the Bible teacher must be careful to teach the truth and not his/her version of the truth. He must have every care that his/her life is not in contradiction of the truth taught. James had taught earlier our acts are to demonstrate our faith.

Teachers in the early churches were probably not trained in either the Jewish law or the teachings of the apostles. That is one of the reasons Paul and others wrote to the churches. Like home church teachers, the teachers were following Christ as best they knew with limited resources. Home church teachers, however, have the New Testament teachings to give guidance. The resources provided by:

[www.homechurchonline.com](http://www.homechurchonline.com)

give background material and a teaching guide. These may be supplemented by other resources available to some.

Some guidelines for the home church teacher would include:

Prepare adequately. Start early in the week before you are to teach to read the Scripture passage and lesson materials through so that God can teach you throughout the week what He wants you to teach others.

Pray about how you can apply the teaching to the people you have to teach. You are never just teaching information; you are teaching people. Pray by name for the people in your group.

Look upon your teaching responsibility as a task given you by God. Be humble. Do not expect to be an expert. Learn from others.

### **James 3:2**

*We all stumble in many ways. Is anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.*

James identifies with the reader by saying *We all stumble in many ways*. There are numerous ways in which the Christian can sin against God and injure his fellow man. But the person who is careful and thoughtful in what he/she says is well under way to



keeping control of other ways in which he/she might sin. Anger often leads to harsh, unloving words; lack of concern for others makes us unaware of how what we say affects other people. Pride causes us to think what we say is the most important thing in the world. Lust causes sensual language to come out of our mouths. There is an unmistakable link between what we say and the sin that is in our hearts.

### **James 3: 3-6**

***When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships, as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.***

The tongue is a small part of the body, but it has great potential for evil and for good. James uses three illustrations to show how something small controls something large.

By controlling the bit in the mouth of the horse, the rider can control the whole body. The power of the bit in the horse's mouth is enormous. A very large horse weighing as much as 3200 pounds can be controlled by a two-pound metal bit. With such a bit, the mighty horse can be guided to pull an enormous load. This is an apt comparison to the tongue which when controlled makes one *able to keep his whole body in check*.

A ship is guided by a relatively small rudder even in the midst of rough winds and strong gales. Even modern ocean liners have relatively small rudders. The tongue, a small muscle in the human mouth, can change the course of history. Someone has said that for every word in the book by Adolph Hitler called **Mein Kampf** more than a hundred lives were lost in World War Two.

Social media is having the same kind of impact in today's world. Tensions are exacerbated (made worse) in political situations by opinions expressed, often thoughtlessly. False information is passed to hundreds of "friends" on Facebook accounts. No one is accountable for verifying the attacks made on all kinds of people in the public forum, but especially leaders of countries.

The third example of how something small can have far reaching consequences is the example of a small spark which can cause a wildfire which ravages homes, beautiful countryside, and forests. A cigarette carelessly thrown down or a campfire only partially extinguished have caused fires which have damaged acres of land and burned many homes. Careless burning of brush in a dry area can easily get out of control. Of course, there are also fires set by lightning or combustible materials on the ground which are not caused by human error. But all too often, behind a massive fire is a thoughtless human action. Thoughtlessness is often involved in our speech. We don't

think who might be hurt or negatively influenced by a remark we make. This applies, once more, to social media. It is so easy to e-mail, Facebook, or tweet a thoughtless opinion or comment. Cyber bullying has even led to young people having taken their own lives.

In verse 6 James may be referring to the wooden chariot wheel of Roman times. When the wooden wheel lost its lubrication, it chaffed against the wooden axle. The result was a fire that moved from the hub of the wheel along the spokes to the outer circumference. The wheel blazed from the center to the rim.

The tongue has a strategic place in the center of every individual's life. From that center, the tongue can set on fire relationships, cast doubt on a person's integrity, initiate disagreements between individuals and even nations.

James uses very strong language here. "What James is saying is that the tongue can kindle a destructive fire which can destroy all life; and the tongue itself is kindled with the very fire of hell. Here indeed is the terror of the tongue (Barclay, page 103).

### **James 3: 7-8**

**All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**

The February 2013 *National Geographic* magazine contained an article entitled "The Bite That Heals" which tells how scientists are unlocking the medical potential of the venom of snakes, scorpions, spiders, a few lizards, bees, sea creatures such as octopuses, numerous species of fish and cone snails. "The properties which make venom deadly are also what make it so valuable for medicine. Many venom toxins target the same molecules that need to be controlled to treat diseases. Already, medicines for heart disease and diabetes have been derived from venom. New treatments for autoimmune diseases, cancer, and pain could be available within a decade." (Holland, J.S. *National Geographic*, February, 2013, page 70).

Even wild animals such as grizzly bears have been tagged and their actions carefully monitored by park officials. James wrote that animals, birds, reptiles, and creatures of the sea are continually being tamed. Today's approach to environmental issues means that creatures are not ruthlessly killed, but are allowed to live in as much of a natural environment as possible.

However, the capacity for wide scale destruction still remains and it was only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that huge herds of buffalo roamed the Western prairies of western Canada and the United States. Now they are present only in carefully fenced and protected areas. Man has the capacity to tame many wild animals, but James says no man can tame the tongue. Like the yellow-lipped sea krait in Fijian waters or the bark scorpion of Mexico, the tongue can be full of deadly poison.

### James 3: 9-12

***With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.***

We can praise God with the words we speak. We can criticize, bully, and tell lies about people we know. But the people we know are made in God's image so to use hateful words about them is, in fact, to criticize God Himself.

The picture which James gives is of the fact that salt water and fresh water cannot come from the same spring. A tree can only bear the fruit appropriate to its species. But humans are able to praise God and with words hate others. James strongly declares, ***My brothers this should not be.***

Recent political elections in North America have become so acrimonious that average people are both disillusioned and weary. Huge sums of money are spent in casting the opponent in the worst possible light. Many things said are actually libelous and, in other days and saner times, a person would be held responsible for the untruths. However, we have accepted that all parties use the same tactics and after the election, things will return to normal. ***My brothers this should not be*** James would say to us across the centuries. Each one of us is responsible for speaking and writing the truth. An old truth is this: If you can't say anything good about a person, don't say anything at all. We must regain the capacity for thoughtful disagreement without untruthful arguments.

### **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

Today's lesson is extremely practical. The capacity for sharing untruths and unloving comments exists for many people through social media as well as in more time honored speech. Christians have not been without blame in the spreading of untruth through social media. We must examine our own responsibility in this area.

### **For Personal Reflection:**

**What have I learned from this study?**

**What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

**What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***Watch What You Say***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

James 3:1-12

#### **Background**

James 3

#### **Main Idea**

Since what we say has great power for good or for evil, we must take care to communicate in a Christ-like manner.

#### **Question to Explore**

What was that you just said?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To help the church determine ways they will communicate for good rather than for evil

#### **Connect with Life:**

There was a time, not too long ago, when what we said was heard by a few people around us. A larger audience was influenced by newspapers, magazines, and books. Television greatly expanded how one person's words could impact others. But with social media present today, the most thoughtless word or untruth can be spread to thousands of people—almost instantaneously. Moreover, once “sent”, it is completely out of the control of the person who spoke or texted it. Anyone who receives the message can pass it on to thousands of others. This lesson is of extreme importance to every one of us.

#### **Guide the Study:**

Have someone read James 3:1.

Inquire: Why is teaching the Word of God a serious matter?

Have someone look up and read Hebrews 13:17.

Ask: How might we encourage teachers?

Discuss the suggestions for home church teachers given in the preparation materials. Some guidelines for the home church teacher would include:

1) Prepare adequately. Start early in the week before you are to teach to read the Scripture passage and lesson materials through so that God can teach you throughout the week what He wants you to teach.

2) Pray about how you can apply the teaching to the people you have to teach. You are never just teaching information; you are teaching people. Pray by name for the people in your group.

3) Look upon your teaching responsibility as a task given you by God. Be humble. Do not expect to be an expert. Learn from others.

Pause for comments adding to this list. (You may want to list the above suggestions and additional comments on a white board or large piece of paper).

Ask if someone would share what they have learned from teaching a lesson in home church.

Have someone read James 3:2.

Continue by saying: James identifies with us by saying *We all stumble in many ways.*

Ask: Who is a “perfect” man according to James 3:2? (One who is never at fault in what he says).

Have someone look up and read Matthew 5:48.

Inquire: What do you think Jesus meant by “Be Perfect”? Can a person be “perfect”?

Have three different people read the following passages related to perfection?

Matthew 19:21; Colossians 3:14; 1 Peter 4:8.

Follow up with this: What is involved in reaching perfection in these passages? (sell your possessions and give to the poor; have love)

For a few minutes, consider with the group what James meant by saying: If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he will be able to keep his whole body in check.

Have someone read James 3: 3-6.

See if the group can answer this: Identify the three examples James gave of how something small has great power.

Pose this question: Do you see a relationship between the warnings which James has given about the tongue and our use of social media such as e-mail, facebook, or twitter?

Describe the wooden chariot wheel and its relationship to the tongue which has a strategic place in the center of every individual's life. (This is described in your **Teacher Preparation** materials).

Ask: According to James how powerful is the tongue? (It is a fire, a world of evil, corrupts the whole person, sets a life course, is related to hell itself).

Have someone read James 3: 7-8.

Include the group in identifying animals which we consider to have been "tamed".

Assign the following scriptures to three different people and ask them to discern—according to the each verse—what truly controls the tongue?

Matthew 12:34 (what is in the heart)

Matthew 15:18-19 (what is in the heart)

Proverbs 16:23 (what is in the heart)

Have another person read James 3: 8-12.

Question: In these verses, what conflict does James see? (The same tongue praises God and curses his creation – another human being).

Ask: What warning does James give? (My brothers this should not be).

Continue by asking: What examples of social media have you seen which demonstrate this reality?

## **Encourage Application:**

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Comment: Think of a time when someone's tongue influenced you positively and or negatively.

Add: When was the last time you influenced someone with your tongue positively? Negatively?

Read Matthew 12:35-37 to indicate how Jesus says we will be accountable for our tongues.

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.



# Youth!!! Take Ten

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### ***Watch What You Say*** **James 3:1-12**

**A youth will lead the following activity and comments.** No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

#### **GIVING GOOD ADVICE**

Suppose you were giving advice to a younger sibling or cousin about how they should use the internet. What should they avoid? How can it help with schoolwork and connecting with friends? List your words of advice on a white board or large sheet of paper.

**Worship Time** (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Watch What You Say***  
**James 3:1-12****Beginning the Service:**

Sing:

**Change My Heart, O God**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 529; CCLI # 1565

Have a child or youth read the following Scripture. You may use two children or young people.

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law***  
Galatians 5: 22.

***Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.*** Philippians 4:8.

**Offering:****Praying for the World:**

Pray for **Zona Juvenil Youth Ranch** in Guatemala. Older boys and teens with a variety of needs live together, care for one another, work hard to build and maintain the buildings. They are learning many life skills as they come to understand God's plan for their lives.

**Sharing Guide:**

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

## The wisdom that comes from heaven James 3: 17-18

***But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.***

***For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.*** Matthew 12: 34b-35.

James ends Chapter 3 of his book with a description of wisdom that comes from heaven. It is related to his admonitions about controlling what we say in that our mouths express those things we have in our hearts. Jesus said that out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

Since that is true, we want to think on those things that are ***true, noble, right, pure, whatever is lovely, and admirable.*** We want to focus on those things *that are excellent or praiseworthy.*

***The wisdom that comes from heaven*** will enable us to be the kind of people James described when he said ***If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.***

The wisdom that comes from heaven is God-given, Spirit-inspired and modeled after the teachings of Jesus. James gave Godly advice – wisdom given to him from heaven. But he knew that without God's help we would not achieve the control of our tongue that he desired and that we desire.

The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. "The true wisdom is the wisdom which is so cleansed of all ulterior motives, so cleansed of self, that it has become pure enough to see God. Worldly wisdom might well wish to escape God's sight. The true wisdom is able to bear the very scrutiny of God" (Barclay, page 111).

True wisdom is that which produces right-relationships. It is peaceable; at all times it brings men closer to one another and closer to God. Desiring peace is important; causing peace to be possible is more difficult. It begins with our own relationships in our families, with our co-workers and friends. It involves our understanding that other

people are made in the image of God. To consider people as unimportant or unworthy is to dishonor God Himself.

The Greek word translated considerate has a far deeper meaning than just being aware of other people's feelings and treating them nicely. It refers to knowing how to make allowances for others' errors. It is understanding that their culture, upbringing, and life experiences have colored who they are and what they do. The considerate person knows when not to stand upon his/her rights. He/she knows how to temper justice with mercy. This man or woman remembers that there are greater things in the world than rules and regulations. It is the Golden Rule in action – ***So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*** Matthew 7:12.

True wisdom is not stubborn; it is willing to listen to reason and to appeal. It is skillful in knowing when to wisely yield to another. Even when we believe that our opinion is right or best, it is necessary that we listen respectfully and carefully to others. Sometimes we may need to modify our opinions as we understand the perspective of another person.

The wisdom which is from heaven is full of mercy and good fruits. This is concern for the person in trouble even when the trouble is his/her own fault. Mercy then results in practical help for that one in trouble. We sometimes say about someone whose poor decisions have resulted in problems—"Well, they got what was coming to them". True mercy helps the one whose bad decisions led to disaster as well as those whose disasters may come from outside of themselves.

True wisdom is not wavering and hesitant; it knows its own mind and chooses its course and sticks to it. It is also without hypocrisy. It is not pretense. It does not conceal its real aims and motives.

The verse ends with these words: ***Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*** The Authorized Version says: ***The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.***

Right relationships are key to having peace. Maintaining right relationships is dependent on our controlling our tongue – the things we say, write, and put on the internet. "Without right relationships between man and man righteousness cannot exist, and all man's striving for righteousness is rendered ineffective and without reward" (Barclay, page 114).

People of peace cause peace to happen. People of conflict cause conflict to happen. We want to seek God's wisdom so that we can be people of peace. We want to seek purity in our lives. We want to be gentle and reasonable. We want to show mercy to those in need. We want no hypocrisy in our lives.

**The Message** interprets this verse to say:

***Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. The Message, James 3:17-18.***

### **Call to Commitment:**

Pray that each one in the group will be careful this week to monitor what he/she says to family, co-workers, friends and strangers. Pray that use of the internet will reflect our commitment to God. Pray for the true wisdom which comes from heaven – wisdom that is pure, peace-loving, considerate, and submissive, sure of what we believe and without hypocrisy.

### **Concluding the Service:**

Read together James 3: 17-18 from **The Message**.

***Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. The Message, James 3:17-18.***

Make copies of the following to be read in the Worship Time by a child or young person.

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5: 22.***

***Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Philippians 4:8.***

***The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. Matthew 12: 35.***

Make copies of these verses to be read by the group to conclude the Worship Time.

***Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. The Message, James 3:17-18.***

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